

# Cantoni, Giulio

Giulio L. Cantoni (1915–2005)

## Biography

Giulio Cantoni, M.D., was the founding chief of National Institute of Mental Health's Laboratory of General and Comparative Biochemistry, from 1954 to 1994, as well as the founding music director of the FAES Chamber Music Series at the NIH. He pioneered understanding of methylation, a key chemical reaction increasingly appreciated as the switch that turns genes on and off in biological processes ranging from cancer metastasis to nurture's influence on nature in shaping stress reactivity. Dr. Cantoni was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1983. A Jewish refugee from Mussolini's Italy, he arrived to New York just weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, a story recounted in his autobiography, *From Milan to New York by Way of Hell: Fascism and the Odyssey of a Young Italian Jew*.



Giulio Cantoni National Institutes of Health

## Resources

### Dr. Cantoni's Own Reflections

- [Autobiography, From Milano to New York By Way of Hell, 2000](#)
- [Announcement of concert series in NIH Record, 1987](#) (PDF, 17.4 mB)

### NIH Publications

- [Announcement of death in NIH Record, 2005](#) (PDF, 272 kB)

### Journal Publications

- [Obituary by Nicole Kresge et al. in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, 2005](#) (PDF, 42 kB)
- [Tribute by Ivan Oransky in The Lancet, 2005](#) (PDF, 81 kB)

### Non-journal Publications

- [Obituary in Washington Post, 2005](#) (PDF, 113 kB)
- [Obituary in Los Angeles Times, 2005](#) (PDF, 289 kB)
- [Biography for National Academy of Science, 1983](#) (PDF, 194 kB)
- [Mention in Biological Methylation and Drug Design Experimental and Clinical Role of S-Adenosylmethionine by Ronald T. Borchardt and Cyrus R. Creveling](#)